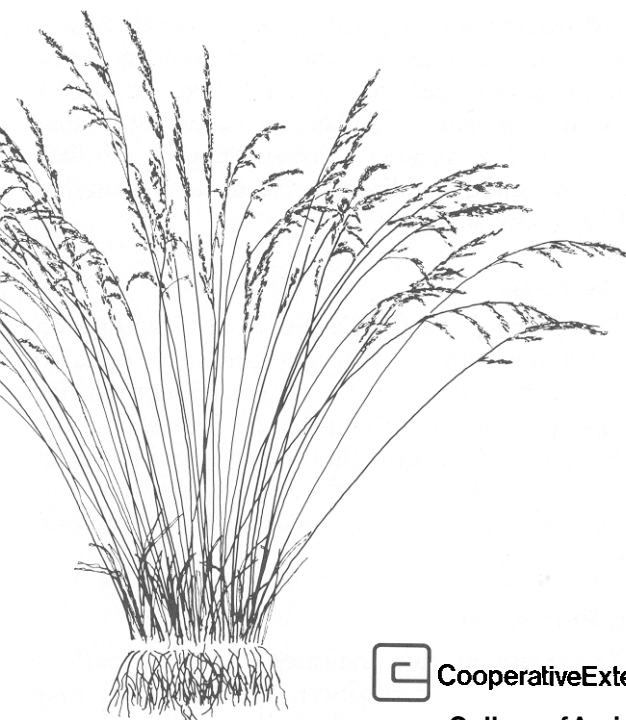


Canbar Canby Bluegrass



Cooperative Extension

**College of Agriculture
Washington State University
Pullman, Washington**

CANBAR CANBY BLUEGRASS—

CLARENCE A. KELLEY, Manager, Pullman Plant
Materials Center, **SCS**, **USDA**, and
KENNETH J. MORRISON, Extension Agronomist

Canbar canby bluegrass is a cool-season perennial bunchgrass. It grew native in association with bluebunch wheatgrass and ponderosa pine. The name was chosen to imply that it is competitive with several annual weeds and grasses.

The Oregon and Idaho Agricultural Experiment Stations cooperated with the Pullman Plant Materials Center, Soil Conservation Service, **USDA**, in its release.

Development

Canbar canby bluegrass was developed from an original collection made in the Blue Mountains of southeastern Washington. It is a small understory grass which makes vigorous early spring growth. Leaves are mostly basal and flat. Stems rarely reach a height over 24 inches. It requires well-drained sites. Where season-long moisture is available, it is crowded out by other species. It thrives on short-season moisture sites, taking advantage of winter and spring moisture. Canbar sets seeds and goes dormant in late spring. Dormant plants are very drought resistant, enabling Canbar to survive on dry, shallow, rocky sites.

Proposed Use

The primary use for Canbar is in a mixture on sites that need an early spring perennial grass to compete with annual weeds and grasses not desired. It grows well in rainfall up to 24 inches or more but is best used on droughty locations with winter and spring moisture available. On these sites it is most effective seeded as an understory in a mixture of other grasses.

Seed Production

Experience to date indicates it is potentially a good but erratic seed producer. The variability may relate to its early maturity. At Pullman, Washington, that maturity date is late June. Seed can be produced under dryland or irrigation.

Canbar is apomitic, so cross-pollination is not a serious problem. The seed is easily cleaned.

Seeding Recommendations

Fall seeding (late October to mid-November) is a must in low rainfall areas. It may be spring seeded for seed production or under irrigation. Seed not over 1/4 inch deep on a firm, clod-free seedbed. It is recommended all plantings be made on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) basis.

$$\frac{\% \text{ Purity} \times \% \text{ Germination}}{100} = \text{PLS}\%$$

Suggested Seeding Rates

Row spacing, inches	PLS linear foot	Total seed, lb/acre at 80% PLS
6	30	4*
12	30	2*
24-36?	30-50	1

*Rate for seeding in a mixture.

†Seed production.

Seed Availability

Foundation seed of Canbar is available through the Washington State Crop Improvement Association. Washington seed growers should apply for foundation seed through their County Crop Improvement Association. Breeder seed is maintained by the Pullman Plant Materials Center.



Issued by Washington State University Cooperative Extension, J. O. Young, Director, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension programs are available to all persons without discrimination. Published December 1981.